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The Game cock, with an account of his og



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OLNEY BROWN KENT St.

THE
GAME COCK,
WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS ORIGIN,
THE MOST IMPROVED METHOD OF
BREEDING,
AND OF
TRAINING FOR BATTLE;

ALSO,

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY
PROFESSED COCKERS TO BE OBSERVED IN ALL
THE REGULAR COCK-PITS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN EXPOSURE OF THE TRICKS PRACTISED BY THE
UNFAIR COCKER, TO IMPOSE UPON THE INEXPERI-
ENCED, AND ROB THEM OF THEIR MONEY.

EMBELLISHED WITH

A correct Representation of Two Game Cocks, ready trimmed
and spurred for Battle. Drawn by MR. EDWIN LANDSEER, and
engraved by MR. THOMAS LANDSEER.

BY A DISTINGUISHED AMATEUR.

LONDON:
THOMAS DOLBY, CATHERINE-STREET, STRAND.

1825.

Price 1s. 6d.

From The Library of
Dr. Olney Brown Kent



Published by Dolby, 299, Strand, January, 1823.

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Dedicated to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby,
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THE

GAME COCK.

GAME COCK—Phasianus Gallus, of Linnæus: Phasianus Gal-
linaceus of Ray, Willoughby, and other Ornithologists.

THE English game cock is vulgarly imagined to be the offspring of the domesticated fowl and the pheasant. This idea is, however, not at all assented to by ornithologists, or the amateurs of the art of cocking. On more sure grounds its origin is referred to the wild cock of India*, where he is occasionally seen in his wild state in the woods, and at the Isles

* His original colour was nearly black, with some red feathers towards the head. I am the more inclined to believe this, as the dark-reds are generally the hardiest when they come to a long battle.

of St. Iago, Pulocondore, Timor, Philippine and Mollucca Islands; Sumatra, Java, New Guinea, Tinian, and the Isles of the South Seas. At Sumatra and Java they are noticed as being particularly large. Pliny tells us, that cock-fighting was annually practised at Pergamus, a city in Asia. Mr. Pegge assures us, that the Athenians practised it at an annual festival in the time of the great General Themistocles, who encouraged his soldiers to acts of bravery, by admonishing them to imitate the example of the cock. Chalcis in Eubæa were famous for their superior breed of cocks, they were large, and such as our sportsmen call shake-bags or turn-outs; at Alexandria in Egypt they had a breed of hens called *Μοισσοφοι*, which produced the best fighting-cocks.

The Romans were better acquainted with quails as fighting birds than with cocks. It is considered, however, that they were the first to introduce the practice here: though the bird was here before Cæsar's arrival. Cocking was much encouraged by Henry VIII. who, it is supposed, founded the celebrated national cockpit at Westminster, afterwards

renewed and encouraged by Charles II. who first introduced the breed of *pile* cocks, which for many years was held in such estimation, and by many much liked to this day. The institutors of this establishment, enacted certain laws for the better regulation of these sports, which we shall briefly describe. There are three kinds of mains or matches at present in use among cockers: the *long main*, which generally continues for a week; the *short main*, of a day or two (both regulated by the same laws), and the Welch main: in the *long main* the cocks are generally the property of a joint subscription, or of only two individuals, and the cocks thus collected are chosen for the main according to their weights, those being preferred, as a medium weight, from three pounds eight ounces to four pounds ten ounces, giving or taking an ounce on either side though they are generally matched to a drachm weight.

The cocks which form the *bye* battles of the main become the objects of separate bettings, and are subject to the same regulations. Cocks which weigh

above 4 lbs. 10 oz. are termed turn-outs, and are never matched by weight, as when they weigh above that, they are reckoned fit to contend with any one.

The *short main* lasts only for a day or two, the cocks being fewer in number, or the numbers are doubled for each day.

The *Welch main* is generally fought for a purse, a gold or silver cup, a fat hog, or some other prize: in this main all the fowls are restricted to a certain weight, viz. about four pounds four ounces; these are matched according as shall be agreed upon, the winners again taking the winners till they are reduced to the last pair, then the winner of the last battle gains the prize. Besides this, there is to be noticed the battle royal, which consists of a number of fowls being put down together at the same time on the pit, and the last survivor gains the prize—a practice known no where but in this country.

In fighting a regular main they always commence with the *lightest* cocks, as they can be first prepared, and the heaviest ones that have been most reduced, by this means gain time to recover their strength, and be brought up again.

The following is a copy of the articles of a
Match Bill:

Articles of agreement, made the day of
 , one thousand eight hundred and
between First, the said parties
have agreed, that each of them shall produce, shew
and weigh, at the , on the
day , beginning at the hour of
in the afternoon cocks, not under 3 lbs. 8 oz.
nor above 4lbs. 10 oz. and as many of each party's
cocks that come within one ounce of each other shall
fight for a battle, that is, each
cock, in as equal divisions as the battles can be di-
vided into six pits, or days' play at the cockpit before-
mentioned, and the party's cocks that win the great-
est number of battles, matched out of the number
before specified, shall be entitled to the sum of

, odd battle money, and the sum to be
 staked in the hands of Mr. before any
 cocks are pitted, by both parties: and we further
 agree to produce, shew, and weigh on the said
 weighing days, cocks for bye battles, subject
 to the same weight as the cocks in the main, and
 these to be added to the number of cocks unmatched;
 and as many of them as come within one ounce of
 each other shall fight for a battle; the
 number of cocks so matched to be equally divided
 as will permit of and added to each day's play with
 the main cocks: and it is also agreed that the balance
 of the battle money shall be paid at the end of each
 day's play: it is also further agreed, that the cocks
 fight in silver spurs, and with fair hackles; and to
 be subject to all the usual rules of cock-fighting as
 practised at the Cockpit Royal, Westminster; and
 the profits arising from the spectators, called door-
 money, to be equally divided between both parties,
 after all charges are paid that usually happen on
 those occasions. Witness our hands this
 day of 18 .

It is understood on all occasions, that when the cocks are once pitted, the setters-to are not allowed to handle them unless they get entangled in each other, or in the mat, or touching the side of the pit, and if they should be thrown on their back with their feet not touching the mat, it is fair to turn them on their feet again. On no pretence are feathers to be removed from the beak or eyes during the fight. If one of the cocks is hit down during the battle, and no longer able to fight, take the first opportunity (while the other is not fighting him) of telling the *short law*, which you do by counting, distinctly and audibly, "twice twenty," when they may be handled, and set-to again. If the weakest then refuses, you begin to tell the *long law* of *one hundred*, by counting it by *tens*. At the end of each time you count *ten*, set them to, beak to beak, and if either cock refuse to fight ten times successively, he loses; but should he show fight, by pecking or fighting at the other, while you are counting the one hundred, you must begin with your tens again, and at the end of each ten you must say aloud "once refused," "twice refused," &c. till he refuses ten times, when

you may withdraw your cock, and claim the battle-money. Should both be disabled, and refuse to fight, *before the long law* begins counting, it is a drawn battle and neither wins; and should both refuse fighting during telling of the *long law*, it is that cock's battle which fought last.

If any one wishes to stop this telling him out, he may "pound him," that is, he bets the cock will be beaten, ten pounds to five shillings. In this case he lays down his hat, or any thing else on the pit, as a token of the challenge, when the *short law* is told by a person distinctly counting twice twenty, and afterwards repeating the words, "will any one take it?" three times; if no one accepts the challenge during this short law, the cock is beaten. It is necessary, when any one takes the poundage or bet, that he declares it, and also lays down something on the pit as surety. If so, the cock must fight till death, though sometimes he unexpectedly recovers and wins.

Having described the natural origin of this race of birds, the history of the sport, its laws and regulations, we now proceed to consider the general form and properties of the fighting-cock, when in his greatest perfection, according to the ideas we at present entertain. A good cock has eyes sparkling with fire, boldness in his demeanour, and freedom in his motions, and displays force in all his proportions. The general outline of the finest cock, taken as a whole, approaches that of a lengthened cone, excluding the legs and tail, the apex of the cone being the head, and the base, the vent and belly; under such external form may exist the best properties of the cock. In describing the beauties of particular parts, the head should be small, the beak strong and pointed, the neck long and strong, the girth of the shoulders, chest, and body, broad, feeling broad to the grasp, and tapering again to the rump; the thighs and legs large and strong, and rather long than short: it is considered a good point if he brings them close up to his body when held in the hands, instead of letting them hang loosely down.

The feathers, to amateurs, also afford a good criterion for judging of the soundness of the bird; where they lie close to the skin, and compacted together, feel short and stiff to the touch, and shining and glossy in their exterior, such is deemed a sound feathered bird. The colours most admired are the *reds* and the *duck-wings*! by the red, among cockers, is understood a cock with a *hackle* (that is, the feathers of the head and neck) red, with the feathers of the rump or saddle to correspond*, the red cock varies with a black breast and ginger wing†, that is, of a gingerbread colour, or with a black breast and dark wing; such are *dark reds*; the *light reds* are those whose breasts are wholly red, or red spotted with black, or black streaked with red, and these receive their names according to these circumstances, as, ginger-breasted, spotted-breasted, streaky-breasted, &c. The duck-wing cock derives his name from a bar of steel blue, across the greater

* That is, of the same colour, or nearly.

† Vulgarly called s——t wing reds.

coverts, like the fascia across the wild duck's wing in this case it is observed that the secondaries are exteriorly white, the hackle and saddle are also nearly the same colour, or pale yellow or cream coloured, their breasts may be black, streaked or spotted; the shoulder may be tawny, dark red, or birchen, or silver shouldered; from which colours they receive their distinctions.

The yellow cock is merely a variety of the duck wing, from which it differs only in having the secondary feathers, or those next the flight, dark instead of white; the blue bar in these cocks sometimes varies to a light brown. The next colour to be noticed is the dun. These cocks are in reality of a lead or slate colour, and may be wholly so, or duck-wing, with the breast, flight and tail dun, or a yellow dun, that is, a yellow cock with a dun breast, flight and tail; by flight feathers are meant the strongest feathers of the wing farthest from the body of the cock when the wing is extended. The red duns are red cocks with dun breast, flight and tail. White cocks are

either wholly white, and are called smocks, or with red shoulders, and are called piles; when these are streaked with any other colour in the hackle, breast, rump, or tail, they are termed streaky piles. If the pile cocks have a mixture of dun on the breast or shoulders, they are called dun piles. Another variety of this breed is the cuckoo, which is rare; he is white with the feathers variegated promiscuously, or barred with black, yellow, or red. The spangle is also rare; he is red, tipped with white spots, or white and black. Hen cocks have the natural propensities of the cock, but are so called from having the hackle, tail and wing, more like the hen. When any coloured fowl has the shoulder mixed with black, he is called *beesy* shoulders, probably from the French word *bis*, black or dusky. The colour of the legs should also be noticed, these are either yellow, black, white, blue, olive, or dark green, willow or light green, or carp legged, which is a mixture of black and yellow; the beaks in general correspond with the colour of the legs: the colour of the eyes is also noticed in the match bill; the red or ferret eye (the iris being red) the pale yellow, or daw eye, the

dark brown or sloe eye. 'Tis a great property in a cock to be what is termed corky, that is, a cock which for its size weighs light, having light flesh and light in the bone, though strong: they have a great advantage over *lumpy* cocks, which are *heavy flesh'd*. A sound cock will crow clear, have a clear shining feather, short, hard, and difficult to pluck from his body, his face red, for if pale, he is unhealthy. A *good cock* should fight at any part of the body, and should carry a fatal spur, or, in other words, hit well with his weapons; their actions should be quick without hurrying, and rapid but cautious.

ON BREEDING.

A well-trying breed of cocks being obtained, consider them the stock to breed from; the nearer their colours the more kindly they will unite. Never breed from two old fowls, let one at least be young: three or four hens are enough for one cock; the breeding place should be well aired, and entirely free from other poultry: clear water, grass, gravel, and lime

rubbish, and an occasional change of food, is good ;
 as barley, oats, potatoes, a little meat, toast and
 beer, &c. The roosts should be rather low, as the
 heavy fowls otherwise would, in descending, cripple
 themselves. The perches should be exactly suited
 to the grasp of the foot ; the keeping of pigs, ducks,
 or allowing them access to coal ashes, or soap-suds,
 produces the roop ; there should be no geese or tur-
 keys at the walk, as they are always battering the
 fowls : the nests should be made of clean dry straw,
 rubbed soft between the hands and put in a basket,
 earthen pan, or some such dish, and about a foot and
 a half from the ground. Hay is injurious to the
 eggs, faint in the smell, and is apt to engender ver-
 min. There should be more nests than hens, as it
 will prevent them quarrelling and breaking the eggs :
 one egg should always be marked with ink and left
 in the nest, for them to lay to, that you may know
 it from the others ; as the eggs are laid, take them
 from the nest and put them in bran, with the small
 end downwards. When a hen begins to cluck, don't
 save any more of her eggs for setting. If a cock
 dislikes any of the hens she should be removed.

About a dozen eggs are enough for a clutch. As the hen hatches the young, they may be taken and put in flannel in a basket near the fire, till the last is hatched, feeding them till they rejoin their mother on crumbs of bread, hard boiled eggs, chopped raw meat, grits, &c. ; and when returned to the mother do it by night when she is on the nest, otherwise she might fancy them strangers and destroy them. They should then be conveyed to a dry place, where there are neither cats nor vermin, and for 10 or 12 days the hen should be cooped, to prevent her from wandering and fatiguing the chickens ; they should have clean water fresh every day. At about six weeks old, when their sexes can be distinguished, select those which are to be kept, and destroy the rest, that the remaining ones may thrive the better, by getting the whole attention of the mother. Cut the young cocks combs at the age of four months, and about five or six weeks afterwards, their gills and deaf ears. The young cocks should be marked with scissors, by slitting part of the web of the foot, or cutting a small notch in the nostril, or punching a small hole in the web of the foot with a shoemaker's

punch. Some do so to the web of the wing nearest the shoulder, others take a small notch out of the upper eyelid, by laying the scissors flat to the side of the head, and cutting out a very small piece of the lid. A clear air, good food, and pure water, with perfect seclusion from other fowls, constitute the best walk, where, as before-mentioned, they can obtain grass and gravel. At about a twelve-month old they are termed stags, and at two years old they are called cocks; the worst of your stags should be tried against a good cock, to enable you to judge of the qualities of the remaining ones; for if he should beat the cock, there is every reason to consider the others good. Short silver spurs are best for this purpose.

TRAINING.

Suppose that the fowl comes from his walk in good condition, in which case he will be too fat for fighting; therefore must be reduced to give him wind.

The general method of training is as follows:

First, cut his tail and spurs short, and put him in the pens ; no food the first day.

Second day, give him physic of cream of tartar or jollop, or both united, about six or eight grains mixed with fresh butter and sugar-candy ; immediately after he gets the physic, tie on the hots or muffles*, and spar him with another cock on a straw or grass plat, till he get fatigued, then return him to his pen ; but if his mouth has been pecked, rub it with a little vinegar and brandy mixed, to prevent it from cankering. Then give him a warm mess to work off his physic, which you must make of bread and milk and a little sugar-candy, or ale and bread and sugar-candy, giving him a large tea-

* Hots, alias hods, or muffles, are pieces of leather stuffed with wool, and about the size of an egg, with a bit of tape fixed to each end, to tie upon the cut spurs of the cocks while so exercising, to prevent injury.

cup full ; when he gets this, shut him up till next morning. If cold weather, cover him up with a blanket or keep fire in the room ; if warm, clip him out ; also keep him dark, by shutting the windows always except at feeding times. Weigh them the third day when empty, and the moment they are weighed, let them begin to feed.

Third day*, clean out his pen from the effects of the physic, giving clean dry straw ; also wash his legs, feet, and face, before putting him among this clean straw. He is next to be allowed some cock bread made of the following ingredients: about three pounds of fine flour and two eggs, and four whites of eggs and a little yeast, kneaded with a proper quantity of water, and have it well baked

* This should be the day of weighing, as the cocks are now considered as light as their constitution will bear, for the less they weigh, the more depends on the judgment of the feeder to bring them to their original strength, and in better condition for battle.

in an oven; to which you may add a small number of anniseeds or a little cinnamon, cut this in small pieces, give one cup full in the morning and one in the evening, allowing no water the third day with the above bread.

Fourth morning, he should receive half a tea-cup full of good barley and a little water, in which a toast has been steeped; having eaten this, clean his pen and give new straw, leaving his pen uncovered about an hour to allow him to scratch himself. The barley should be hard chaffed to take away the sharp points; in the afternoon the same quantity of barley, but no water.

Fifth day, bread as before in three quantities, but no water.

Sixth day, bread early in the morning, and towards the afternoon a good feed of barley and water. Some feeders give sheep's heart cut small, both this and the succeeding day, mixed with the other food.

Seventh day, a feed of barley early in the morning ; in the afternoon, bread and the white of an egg boiled hard, allowing him also a little water.

Eighth day, or day of fighting, allow him about forty grains of barley, and one or two mouth's-full of water from a toast, apple or cheese, for digesting ; hemp-seed steeped in brandy, prevents purging. Wheat or millet seed may be added to his food ; sometimes hemp-seed as a small mixture ; bread toast, soaked in vinegar, is sometimes given for reducing quickly.

ANOTHER WAY OF MAKING COCK BREAD*.

Take of millet seed and rice of each a half-pound : add thereto four ounces of sprat barley and four ounces of vetches, mixed and ground to a fine powder, and put through a fine sieve ; mix

* I have known this bread to have an extraordinary effect in getting them up, when just damped with a little port wine, which stimulates the blood and warms their stomach.

this flour with some strong ale, adding also the white of three eggs and the white and yolk of a fourth ; colour the whole with a little saffron, make it into a loaf, and bake it in a slow oven about four hours. Whites of eggs boiled hard, with hemp-seed and barley, are often given for some of his meals.

MANNER OF TRIMMING HIS FEATHERS.

After having tied his legs with a handkerchief or a piece of soft string, place him on your lap with his legs between your knees and his head towards yourself, then collecting all his neck feathers together, apply your fore finger and thumb in a circular form to that part of the neck next the shoulder of the cock, and press forward the whole of his neck feathers as close round his head as possible, they will then appear like an erect frill round his head ; to which apply a long and sharp pair of scissors as close to your finger and thumb as possible all round, and then take off the surface of the remaining ones next the head, but not too bare ; in fact, it is performed on the same principle as hair cutting, for the feathers are shortened by being cut

when turned the contrary way to that in which they naturally lye. Next cut about two inches off the ends of both his wings, at the same time making the flight feathers decrease in length a quarter of an inch, in proportion to the others, leaving the flight feathers farthest from his body, the shortest, which should be at least three inches from its insertion in the wing. Then cut the tail, leaving it a large hand's-breadth from its insertion in the rump outwards, taking off all the curling feathers round it, leaving only the vane or fan. When his tail is perfectly erect apply the scissors (with their point inclining a little downwards) to the saddle, cutting from a line with the lower feather of the tail towards the end of the wing; some in trimming cut out a great quantity of the soft feathers from under the saddle, to keep the cocks cool. All the feathers round the vent are cut off very close from under the tail to three or four inches towards the breast between the legs*. His spurs are cut off with

* Some pull out most of the feathers round the vent, leaving the skin quite bare.

a thin fine saw, leaving about a quarter of an inch on the leg, on which is fixed the silver or steel spur ; sometimes when the spur is so sawed off, blood will issue from it, which may be stopped immediately by rubbing a piece of chalk firmly into it. In tying on the spur, take a piece of soft thin brown paper, and having folded it two or three times and damped it a little with the tongue, wrap it round the remaining quarter of an inch of his natural heel as often as you think there will be room in the socket of the silver or steel spur to contain it and the natural spur together ; then place the silver or steel spur on the natural spur, pressing the socket close to the leg, observing at the same time that the curved part of the spur is next the foot, and the hollow side upwards ; or, in other words, the point, inclining upwards ; it should stand much in the same direction with the natural spur ; or, if you take a view from the point to the socket, the point should then appear on a line with the hollow of the inside of the leg ; then lap the leather ends over each other and tie them down with a piece of waxed string about the thickness of a shoemaker's thread, beginning with the

middle of the thread on the socket of the spur, close to the spur, going round the leather close to the socket on both sides with the string as often as is necessary for security*; this should neither be too tight to cramp him, nor so loose as to come off, for should it come off, during the battle, or break, it is not allowed to be replaced. A fair spur should be round and smooth from the socket to the point, if flat on any side, or rough, it is foul and improper.

COCKERS' TRICKS EXPOSED.

1st. The person who seconds, or sets-to the cock, may break his thigh with his fingers and thumb in a moment, or may (by pressing his thumbs hard on his kidneys, or by griping him severely by the vent) cause him to lose the battle, though otherwise he could have won it; this will depend on his regard for his *employer*, or the understanding between him

* The leather round the socket of the spurs should have as much breadth as fully to prevent the string from touching the leg.

and the *opposite* party ; for if he thinks he can get more from *them* as a bribe to sell the fight, than he expects from the person who employs him, he will act the above villainous part ; for no cocker is to be trusted ; and for this reason I have always deemed it the safest way for any person to second his own fowl, except there is a very good understanding indeed between him and the person he employs for that purpose.

2nd. If the employer or his second allow the cock to go into the hands of any other person previous to the battle, he may be crippled in an instant, as the person so handling him might have an interest in seeing him beaten.

3rd. If one cock sticks with his spurs into the other, the second of the cock who has *received* the blow takes out the spur ; for if this be entrusted to the other second, he has it in his power to wrench the spur in different directions in taking it out, and doing

the fowl a serious injury, and might (with the point) rip a hole in him that would bleed him to death: this must be guarded against.

4th. Very often the opposite second pretends not to know that his cock has stuck in the other; he immediately catches him up as high as he can reach, and nearly drags the head from the body of the other, or allows him to fall with great force on the pit.

5th. If a cock has but one eye, he should not be pitted till the second is convinced that he sees his antagonist; but if the opposite second can, he will pit his one on the blind side: beware of that.

6th. Some have a low, blackguard trick of using foul spurs, called "*steevy*," according to St. Giles's slang. These appear round on one side, but on the upper side, or that next the body of the cock, they are sharpened with an edge like a knife; others are three-edged or bayonet pointed, which are also foul:

in fact, one cannot be too particular in examining the opponent's spurs, which, to be fair, should be *perfectly round to the point* and smooth, or polished; you must also be on your guard, if you agree to fight with silver spurs, that *plated* ones are not substituted—this is also practised.

7th. When both cocks are so distressed that neither can scarcely hold up his head, and perhaps the one can no longer peck his antagonist, the second of this last mentioned one, in setting him to with the other beak to beak, raises his head with one hand, and with the other, by suddenly raising his tail, bobs him on the other cock, and makes it appear as if he had chopp'd or peck'd, when no such thing took place—this must be strictly watched.

8th. If a cock, after having chopp'd, becomes so weak as to be unable to do so again, his second, in *pretending* to set him to, beak to beak, with the other, only puts him *near* him, and allows his head to drop under the breast of the other, to prevent

him from feeling him, who might chop in return and win the battle—they should always in the long law be put fairly beak to beak.

9th. If the opponent's cock is a good mouthed cock in distress, that is, one who will readily take hold and fight, his second will place his beak on the neck or shoulder of the other, which gives him a great advantage, if permitted, but is unfair, and not admissible.

10th. The same person will sometimes have two cocks taken to the pit, one carried by himself and the other by his friend, or some other person, who pretend to know nothing of each other. They then (to appearance) make up a match between the said two cocks, all the while well knowing which is to win, as the one is previously known to be bad and the other good; this is another system in betting, by which they deceive and rob the spectators, for they are then safe in betting any odds, and the long

odds are generally taken. There are various tricks practised by such vagabonds, but keen observation and second thoughts will avert them.

11th. A person will show a cock with particular marks and colour in full feather, which he matches against another equal in weight; he then retires to trim him for the fight, but returns with *another*, marked and coloured like the first, but much larger, gaining by this manœuvre a decided advantage—this is called, “*Ringing the changes.*”

12th. Sometimes they will rub the face of a sound, healthy cock, with flour and grease, or chalk and grease, to make him look stale, or with grease and blacking, to make him look rotten; at the same time he may be as good as any between “*earth and sky.*”

IN WEIGHING COCKS.

1st. If the opposite party wish to gain an advantage in weight, they will first see your bird weighed,

then one of them will take a penny-piece, or a two or four ounce brass weight, the hollow of which is filled with tallow-grease, and stick it close to the bottom of the scale in which the proper weights are, unseen, if possible; and by these means make *their* cock, which is two or four ounces heavier than the other, appear the same weight. The scales therefore should be narrowly examined, and even if you do not also look up at the beam, the slightest touch of a small stick, or the brim of a hat on some one's head, will make all the difference.

2nd. The fowl or fowls of both parties should be weighed by the very same weights; for if the least chance is afforded, false ones will be substituted. I have seen a weight of four pounds four ounces put in the place of one of four pounds weight—such are actually made for the purpose.

N. B. Cocks that are intended for battle should never be seen or touched by any one but the master or the feeder, otherwise you are never safe, for they

might mix your cock's food with the victuals taken out of the crop of another almost dead with the roop.

Cocks that are meant to fight by candle light should receive the last meals by candle light each day, about the hour appointed for the contest.

3d. Take great care who you allow to tie on the spurs, as they may be too tight and cramp the cock, or loose, and come off. I am inclined to prefer shorter spurs for the size of cocks than are generally used; for turn-outs, not longer than two inches and a half; for lesser ones, from two inches to two and a quarter; for cocks of four pounds four ounces, not more than two inches and an eighth, or two inches only; and if under four pounds, one inch and three quarters, or shorter; for when they come to grappling in close quarters or in distress, a long spur is almost useless; it may do for a dash or two at the first outset, but not afterwards.

It is always a sign of a hen being in good health, and clean fed, if the yolk of her egg, when boiled, is of a pale yellow; when of a dark red, the reverse. Chickens are composed of the tread and white of the egg, as the yolk comes to the world with them in their inside, on which they chiefly subsist till they gain sufficient strength to follow their mother; for the first thing a hen gives her chickens, is the small chips of broken shell out of which they came, which cut the yoke in their inside, and thereby promote digestion.

Fowls that have once had the roop can never be entirely relied on as being either sound enough to breed from, or to fight; and there are so many opinions with regard to the most effectual remedy for their disease, that I consider it useless for me to enter minutely into the subject; for, were I consulted on this point, I would recommend as the most decisive cure—to cut their heads off.

THE END.



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